

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CENTRAL TRANSLATING DIVISION

Enclosure no. 1 to
Request no. 10 of
August 22, 1940 from the
French Government

[TRANSLATION]

TC No.

SUMMARY

**EXCHANGE OF LETTERS DATED AUGUST 30, 1940
BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE AT TOKYO
AND THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN**

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the French Government recognizes the dominant interests of Japan in the Far East in the economic as well as in the political domain.

My Government accordingly relies on the Imperial Government's being good enough to give it assurance that Japan intends to respect the rights and interests of France in the Far East and, in particular, the territorial integrity of Indochina and the sovereign rights of France in all parts of the Indochinese Union.

With respect to the economic domain, France is ready promptly to negotiate means of developing exchanges between Indochina and Japan and to guarantee to Japan and its nationals, in Indochina, the most advantageous possible situation and, in any case, a predominating situation as compared with that of other third powers.

With respect to the exceptional military facilities which Japan has requested, France takes note of the fact that they are only meant, in the intent of the Japanese Government, to make possible the settlement of its dispute with General Chiang-Kai-Shek, which facilities are temporary and will disappear when the dispute shall have been settled; finally, that they are applicable only to the Indochinese provinces bordering on China.

In these circumstances, the French Government is ready to instruct the commander of French troops in Indochina to discuss military questions with the Japanese Government. None of the demands which the Japanese Government has presented is excluded a priori; instructions sent to the French military authorities will not limit their power in this regard.

These conversations will be held under the following conditions:

Military chiefs will, under the protection of their word of honor as soldiers, exchange information to make possible accurate knowledge of the needs of the Japanese army and the manner in which the said needs might be met. These needs have to do only with the conduct of operations in Chinese provinces bordering on Indochina.

Following this exchange of information, trustworthy contacts will be made between the Japanese and French military authorities for the granting to the Japanese army of the military facilities in question.

The French Government will have no financial burden to bear on account of the various facilities which will be granted to Japanese troops; these facilities will not have the character of a military occupation, but will be strictly limited to the needs of the operations and will be provided through the French military authorities and under their supervision.

Finally, the Japanese Government undertakes to assume the cost of reparations for damages which might be caused Indochina both by the acts of war themselves and by acts of occupying troops when the mere presence of Japanese forces might have brought to Indochina.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter dated _____, the text of which is as follows:

(Integral text of the French Ambassador's letter)

In reply to Your Excellency's letter, I have the honor to inform you that the Government of Japan gives assurance to the French Government that Japan intends to respect the rights and interests of France in the Far East and, in particular, the territorial integrity of Indochina and the sovereign rights of France in all parts of the Indochinese Union.

The Government of Japan, furthermore, agrees to the proposals presented to it by the French Government and accepts the arrangements intended to satisfy the Japanese demand to be opened without delay and promptly brought to a successful conclusion. It expresses the hope that the French Government will give the Indochinese authorities the necessary instructions to that end.